

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
GOVERNOR'S MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION and the
ARIZONA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 17, 2005 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Governor's Conference Room, 1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

OPENING REMARKS

Co-Chair Tom Finnegan called the meeting to order and asked Pat Chorpenning to conduct roll call.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

- Lisa Atkins, Co-Chair, West Valley
- Tom Finnegan, Co-Chair, Sierra Vista
- Nancy Stump, House Appointee
- Mayor James Cavanaugh, Goodyear
- Mayor Tom Hessler, City of Sierra Vista
- Supervisor Sandie Smith, Pinal County
- Supervisor Lenore Stuart, Yuma County
- Mayor Robert Walkup, City of Tucson
- Dr. William D. Carrell, Jr., Tucson
- Robert Johnston, Lt. Gen., USMC (Ret.), Tucson
- Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe, Yuma
- Priscilla Storm, Diamond Ventures (Tucson)
- Thomas Browning, Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret.), Phoenix

Commissioners Absent:

- Michael Francis, West Valley Community Action Coalition
- Senator Thayer Verschoor, Arizona State Senate

Ex-Officio and Staff Members Present:

- Deb Sydenham, Arizona Department of Commerce
- Bill Ruddick, US Bureau of Land Management
- Patrick F. Chorpenning, Military Policy Advisor to the Governor

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins asked the representatives from the various military installations in the audience introduce themselves.

- Gen. Richard Maxon, Assistant Adjutant General, representing Department of Military Affairs and Col. Wanda Wright, Chief Executive Officer - Air National Guard
- Vickie Bornt, Sustainment Coordinator, Yuma Proving Ground
- Tom Manfredi, Community Planner, Marine Corps Air Station
- Jeff Carr, Program Analyst, Air Force Research Lab - Mesa
- Matt Walsh, Congressional Liaison, Ft. Huachuca
- John Paradis, Public Affairs, Luke Air Force Base
- Chuck Wullenjohn, Public Affairs Officer, Yuma Proving Ground

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Governor Janet Napolitano thanked the Military Affairs Commission for its hard work preserving and enhancing Arizona military installations. While the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list released on Friday did include two closures and some downsizing that will negatively impact Arizona, the consensus was that the state "dodged a bullet." There must be further study and analysis to identify our options regarding both realignments and closures that were included in the list. Our work is not yet done.

Governor Napolitano also emphasized that the BRAC process itself is also not complete. She was in New Mexico recently and saw first hand how the community there was reacting to the proposed closure of a major base. We will continue to monitor efforts in New Mexico other areas as the BRAC process continues.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES & COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

The minutes of the April 12, 2005 meeting were approved as written.

Co-Chair Finnegan asked the Commissioners to offer any comments that may be useful as the Commission faces its "post-BRAC" work. Each Commissioner acknowledged the significant contributions from various communities and specialized areas of interest.

Co-Chair Tom Finnegan instructed those in the audience who wished to speak to complete comment cards at the back of the room. He also pointed out that there were handouts at the same table. Those wishing to speak were encouraged to complete a card and turn it in to one of the staff members at the table in the back of the room.

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins emphasized that the ground work responsible for minimizing the negative BRAC impact had been carefully laid over the past three decades. The heavy lifting had been done by the congressional delegates, state lawmakers, state and local leadership, developers, and private citizens.

The initial BRAC report estimated that closure of the Air Force Research Lab in Mesa would be 88 total positions. In the full report, there is a reported job loss of 465 direct and indirect positions and the affect on the state economy is estimated at \$74 million. Gen. Tom Browning proposed that the Commission form a sub-committee to explore what actions will be taken regarding this closure. He also feels we need to have public participation in the development of an action plan relative to the proposed closure.

Discussion and Possible Action on the Department of Defense Proposed Base Closing

A motion was made to form a working committee to develop an action plan in light of the proposed closure of the Mesa research lab. The motion was unanimously carried. It is anticipated that August will be a particularly hard month for this subgroup. Volunteers to staff the working group are Gen. Browning and Supervisor Smith from the Commission.

The BRAC meetings started 5/16/05 and BRAC Commissioners are required to visit the facilities slated for closure. No specific timeline has been provided, but one is expected within the next 2 months. The Commission will hold regional public meetings to allow public participation (the last BRAC held its regional public meetings in Colorado).

Those in attendance who might be directly affected by BRAC were asked to provide the Co-Chairs or staff with contact information for major stakeholders. Mark Morehouse has done a wonderful job of keeping everyone informed, and we are continuing to look to him to assist the Commission as it monitors testimony from New Mexico.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action on the Military Installation Fund Draft Rules

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins described the packets that had been distributed to the Commissioners as the result of extremely hard work of the Rules Sub-Committee. This group developed the means of distributing these funds through the rulemaking process. Sue Allender was thanked for her hard work in putting together a package that met the exacting requirements of the Governor's Regulatory Review Council (doing so in record time because of the hard work of the Rules Sub-Committee). Co-Chair Atkins thanked Sherri Lee, Program Manager, who participated in the process and will administer the fund. She also thanked Deb Sydenham, Assistant Director - Community Development, and Tim Lawless, Assistant Deputy Director for the Department of Commerce.

The draft materials provided to the Commissioners were the final Economic Impact Statement and the Notice of Final Rulemaking. The Notice included both the public comments received from all four stakeholder meetings held statewide and a response to the comment.

There were some comments from stakeholders that were clearly outside the scope of the public comment meetings. These are marked as such. Priscilla Storm asked how interested parties were able to access their comments and prepared responses. The information will be posted to the Arizona Department of Commerce website (<http://www.azcommerce.com>). Stakeholders were informed at each public meeting that their comments will be addressed at the website.

Upon adjournment today, the Rules Sub-Committee will forward the rules package to GRRC for their approval. Co-Chair Atkins will ensure that the Notice of Final Rulemaking and the Economic, Small Business and Consumer Impact Statement are available to all interested parties.

Co-Chair Atkins reminded the Commission that the FY 2006 budget will increase the available funds in the Military Installation Fund, effective 7/1/05. It has been and continues to be the focus of the Rules Sub-Committee to distribute these funds as quickly as possible.

Pentagon Channel

Rep. John Nelson presented the Commissioners with a packet of information on a nationwide program sponsored by the Department of Defense. The Pentagon Channel is free to U.S. Cable and satellite providers, providing webcasts of interest to those who follow Department of Defense and military news. Rep. Nelson provided details to meeting attendees, inviting them to attend a free public event on Thursday morning to launch the program.

Call to the Public

Rep. Jennifer Burns from District 25 thanked the citizens of Ft. Huachuca and the Ft. Huachuca 50 for nominating her to a very informative program. She went to Washington, D.C. as part of the Department of Defense' Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. She really appreciated the opportunity to learn about all branches of services. Rep, Burns learned that 9% of all US citizens today served in the World War II. Today, service personnel represent .034% of America's population.

Rep. Russell Jones from District 24 was interested in obtaining further information relative to the Joint Land Use Study for the Yuma area.

Barry Wong, Vice Chairman of the Fighter Country Partnership, addressed the Commission to thank them for their hard work and leadership. Luke Air Force Base (LAFB) was not on the list, which was a tremendous relief to all involved. The immediate jurisdictions surrounding Luke all actively participated for years to make this a reality. He also echoed Gen. Browning's message that we must remain vigilant and the Commission's work is not yet complete.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Co-Chair Atkins indicated that the next meeting has been slated for July 13, 2005. She cautioned the Commission to remain flexible, in the event regional public hearings require a meeting schedule change. The Commission has suspended travel around the state and future meetings will be held in this conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02.